

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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46

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 SY-05 OMB-01 EB-07

SR-02 ORM-01 /080 W

----- 021166

O 071230Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 202

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NY PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 6045

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJECT: APRIL 7, THE 97TH DAY OF THE OFFENSIVE

REF: PHNOM PENH 6031

1. SUMMARY. THE 45TH BRIGADE ABANDONED TWO POSITIONS SOUTH OF THE NORTHERN DIKE GIVING THE KC CLOSER FIRING ACCESS TO POCHENTONG AIRFIELD AND WEAKENING OVERALL DEFENSES IN THE AREA. PREY VENG LOST FIVE POSITIONS ON ITS NORTHERN OUTER DEFENSE PERIMETER BUT CLAIMED 50 KC KILLED IN EARLIER COUNTERATTACKS IN THAT SECTOR. KOMPONG SPEU REPORTS FIGHTING ON THE EASTERN EDGE OF THE MARKET. SOME 200 TROOPS AND MUCH EQUIPMENT ARE STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR AFTER THE LOSS OF THNAL TOTUNG ON ROUTE 4 (REFTEL). TWENTY-FOUR ROCKETS AND EIGHT 105MM HOWITZER ROUNDS HIT AT POCHENTONG. FANK HAS NOT YET REPORTED DAMAGE AND CASUALTIES; AT LEAST TWO CIVILIAN PLANES TOOK SHRAPNEL DAMAGE ACCORDING TO PRIVATE AIRLINE COMPANIES. END SUMMARY.

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2. THE 45TH BRIGADE ABANDONED TWO POSITIONS EARFUB #
KSIT#NIGHT GIVING THE KC CLOSER ACCESS TO ATTACK POCHENTONG
AIRPORT BY FIRE AND FURTHER WEAKENING THE DEFENSES IN
THAT SECTOR. THE KC DID NOT EXPLOIT THEIR ADVANTAGE
TODAYJS #

3. ATTACKS AND ATTACKS BY FIRE MARKED KC ACTIVITY
SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH. ELEMENTS OF TWO 9TH DIVISION
BRIGADES UNDER FORMER PALACE FAVORITE BRIG. GEN. ITH SUONG
ARE NOW ON STATION AT THE FARTHEST POINT THE GKR CONTROLS ON
ROUTE 1. THE SECOND DIVISION'S TOUGH 43RD BRIGADE IS
BACKING UP BOTH THE 9TH DIVISION ELEMENTS AND ITS SISTER
24TH BRIGADE, WHICH IS SOUTHWEST OF ROUTE 1 POSITIONS.

4. KOMPONG SPEU FORCES ARE FIGHTING ON THE EASTERN EDGE
OF THE TOWN'S MARKET. ALL OF KOMPONG SPEU'S INTERVENTION
FORCES ARE FIGHTING AROUND TUOL LEAP AND ROUTE 4 LEAVING
THE TOWN DEFENSES TO TERRITORIALS AND SELF-DEFENSE FORCES.
HALF OF THE 400-MAN GARRISON AT THNAL TOTUNG AND MUCH
EQUIPMENT ARE STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR AFTER THAT POST
WITHDREW (REFTEL). FANK'S NEW DEFENSIVE LINE STARTS
JUST EAST OF ANG SNOUL, ABOUT A DOZEN KM FROM THE
AIRPORT AND 30 KM FROM THE CENTER OF PHNOM PENH.

5. THE KC FOUGHT OFF FANK COUNTERATTACKS TO TAKE FIVE
POSITIONS ON THE NORTHERN, OUTER, SHELL
OF THE CITY DEFENSES. AT LEAST 50 KC DIED IN THE
FIGHTING. AT LAST WORD, 148 SURVIVORS OF THE FALL
OF BANAM HAD STRAGGLED INTO PREY VENG. ABOUT A
DOZEN FROM NEAK LUONG HAVE MADE IT TO SVAY RIENG.

6. TWENTY-FOUR ROCKETS AND EIGHT 105MM HOWITZER
ROUNDS HIT AT POCHENTONG TODAY WITH NO REPORTED
CASUALTIES OR DAMAGE. CIVILIAN AIRLINES REPORT HOWEVER, THAT
AT LEAST TWO OF THEIR AIRCRAFT TOOK SHRAPNEL DAMAGE.
DEAN

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED

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NNN

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